

OHCR Quarterly



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Office of Health Crisis Response



In this issue:

- First Responders & Narcan.....1
- Kate Brookins Farewell to OHCR....2
- CRT Events.....3
- Resource Page.....4
- First Quarter Summary.....5



Save the Date



Faith
 Forward
 Collaborative
 Healing
 Substance
 Addiction

Engaging Faith in Recovery Conference

May 10, 2023 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

OFFICE OF HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE (OHCR) MISSION STATEMENT

OHCR’s mission is “to effectively and efficiently respond to an identified public health crisis by establishing processes and programs to prevent, manage and neutralize the crisis in collaboration with federal, state and private entities”.

First Responders Armed with Narcan

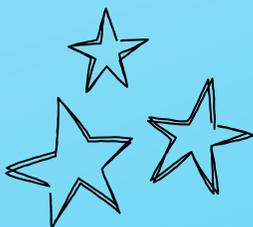
By: Joseph J. Spagnolo Law Enforcement Liaison

As the first ones to respond to opioid overdoses, First Responder's Basic Life Support (BLS) agencies and Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) are in a unique position to administer naloxone quickly. In recognition of the importance of naloxone and the timing of its administration, many BLS agencies and LEOs in Delaware provide officers with naloxone and train them in how to administer Narcan in the event of an opioid overdose. Training, which is facilitated by the training director of the Emergency Medical Service in each county typically involves teaching about the importance of naloxone, detailing signs, and symptoms of opioid overdose, and instructing on how to administer naloxone. After training, first responders can demonstrate their ability to accurately recognize symptoms of opioid overdose and to effectively administer naloxone.

Naloxone Leave Behind Programs, like BLS agencies and LEOs, are also in a unique position to engage members of the community in opioid overdose prevention by providing people with naloxone to have on hand. Given the dire importance of timing in the administration of naloxone, laypeople can also play an essential role in combating the opioid overdose epidemic. While law enforcement officers are often the first to respond to an opioid overdose, critical minutes still pass between when someone overdoses and a first responder arrives. People who are present at the scene of an opioid overdose can then administer naloxone immediately.

Naloxone leave behind programs present an ideal opportunity for members of the community to be provided with naloxone and trained to administer it. Such programs allow first responders to distribute naloxone kits when they respond to an opioid overdose. These kits are most frequently given to bystanders or others at the scene of an overdose, like family members or friends of the individual who experienced opioid overdose or, in some circumstances, to the person who overdosed.

Naloxone kits commonly include two doses of naloxone, instructional steps for responding to an overdose, aftercare information, and information for getting naloxone refills. Naloxone kits can also include contact information for local resources, such as treatment or other community programs. When giving people naloxone kits, First Responders also provide instructions for identifying an overdose and administering naloxone, and they emphasize the importance of calling 9-1-1 in an opioid overdose. Naloxone leave behind programs have been shown to successfully expand naloxone access to affected communities and to increase the likelihood that individuals who overdosed will connect with follow-up services like peer support specialists. Such findings demonstrate how First Responders and medical providers’ engagement with community members, particularly those directly supporting individuals with substance use disorders, can contribute to the successful prevention of future overdoses.



First Responder Kits Distributed	
New Castle	521
Kent	158
Sussex	197



The OHCR Fight Must Go On



by Kate Brookins, outgoing Director of the Office of Health Crisis Response

When I accepted a position with the Division of Public Health (DPH) in 2017, little did I know how extensive my role would become in the landscape of the opioid epidemic and drug overdose crisis in Delaware within the next 5 years. Many things have happened in the span of time since I was hired as the first substance use disorder subject matter expert at DPH, to today when a team of dedicated professionals comprises the Office of Health Crisis Response (OHCR) at DPH. During those years, we not only lived through COVID, we responded to COVID, all the while continuing our work on opioid overdoses.

With the support of many in the leadership at the Division and the Department, as well as numerous comrades and advocates throughout Delaware, we have done a great many things that have moved the needle in the fight against addictions in a monumental way. And while the surveillance numbers don't support the previous statement, the truth is that we have saved many lives; whether those whose breathing was restored as a result of receiving Narcan after an overdose, or those who will benefit from one of the prevention programs founded at OHCR that aim to stop addiction in the first place, or those who get help from harm reduction tools, stigma reduction campaigns and other activities that bear the logo of OHCR.

I couldn't have done all this work alone. I have fought alongside others who have helped me barrel through obstacles and obstructions along the way. The best thing that I did, however, was assemble a team of amazing staff who by large knew very little about opioids, drug overdoses, grant management, or project implementation, but all of whom were ready to roll up their sleeves and help pursue a vision of excellence in healthcare and specifically the opioid crisis. I owe those colleagues my gratitude as they have loyally stood beside me and supported me through challenging times.

Even though it is time for me to say farewell to my position at OHCR, it is not a goodbye to the work or the people who are OHCR. Rather than considering my move to a new role to be an end of our attachment, one may consider it to be an expansion of the work that OHCR has started and that will continue. OHCR will remain strong and successful, because the foundation was built well, and the groundwork is ripe for success. May all the glory go to the team and the hard work they do day in and day out!



On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, the Delaware Community Response Team was happy to present Limen House with a donation of \$1,310 to go toward the entrance fee for someone seeking sober living. Monies were raised during the 3rd Annual Overdose Awareness Day on August 26, 2022.

Pictured are Limen House Staff members with DE-CRTs New Castle County Co-Chair Amy Kevis, DE-CRT Coordinator Allenet Dessuit. Not pictured: DE-CRT member, Jermaine Shelton





DELAWARE UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Response Team

OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAINING

The Sussex County Community Response Team with Beebe Healthcare and Epworth United Methodist Church will provide overdose prevention training during the free drive through food pantry.

Join us:

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

19285 Holland Glade Road
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971



DELAWARE
Community Response Team

MONTHLY NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Become a member of the Delaware Community Response Team. Our goal is to help end overdose and addiction related deaths and eliminate barriers to care and support while reducing addiction related stigma in the State of Delaware. We also look to address the increase of opioid use within the state.

Hosted By:

Allenet Dessuit, BSW, CHW

First Wednesday of each month

Via Microsoft Teams

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING](#)

Registration is not needed

CRTs

22 POD events in first quarter 2023
640 Narcan kits distributed



On March 4, 2023, OHCR along with members of DSAMH, CRTs, and Chi Eta Phi attended the Attack Addiction 5k where they trained community members on how to recognize and respond to an overdose and distributed nearly 200 Narcan kits.



OHCR Resources

Office Number (302) 223-2990

O	Kate Brookins	Public Health Administrator, Director OHCR
H	Candice Brady	Naloxone Program Coordinator
C	Emily Brown	Fiscal Support
R	Katie Capelli	Epidemiologist II
	Anne Carr	Community Outreach Coordinator
	Azure DeShields	Fiscal Management Analyst
	Allenet Dessuit	Community Response Team Coordinator
	Heather Duffy	Administrative Assistant II
T	Danielle Evins	Provider Outreach & Education Coordinator
E	Chris Foster	Deterra Bags Coordinator
A	Jennifer Lynch	Communications & Marketing Coordinator
M	Michele Owens	Harm Reduction Support Coordinator
	Joe Spagnolo	Law Enforcement Naloxone Coordinator
	Rachelle Swanson	Executive Assistant
	Tyler Wolfenden	Contract & Vendor Oversight



DETERRA BAGS

are the only products independently tested and scientifically proven to destroy drugs for good!

[Safe Storage & Disposal Information here](#)



Interested in Narcan training?

[Click here!](#)



Download the **FREE** OpiRescue Delaware app for step-by-step instructions to reverse an opioid overdose.

HELP
is here.
PREVENT • TREAT • RECOVER

Addiction Resources:

HelpsHereDE.com

1-833-9HOPEDE

OHCR@delaware.gov



Scan to order
Help is Here materials

Since the FTS program launched,
6,170 Fentanyl test strips
have been mailed out.



[Fentanyl Test Strips](#)

1st Quarter Summary



In February 2023, 18 employees of **Corrado Construction Company** in New Castle participated in training on how to recognize and respond to an overdose, as part of the T.O.O.L.S – Training for Overdose Outcomes and Leadership Success Program.

In recent years, 33% of overdose deaths were of those who worked in the construction industry. Everyone who attended this safety meeting received a Narcan kit provided by OHCR.



DELAWARE
RESTAURANT
ACCOLADE
PROGRAM



In January 2023, Destiney, the manager at **Jersey Mike's** in Newark saved a life by using the training and Narcan provided to her during the Restaurant Accolade training. She was presented with High 5 Hospitality's highest award (picture above). **High 5 Hospitality** is the first hospitality group in Delaware to have all of their restaurants achieve the Bronze Fork and the Silver Fork awards.



TIK TOK BOOM.

IF YOU GET YOUR DRUGS FROM A DM AND NOT A DOCTOR, ODDS ARE THEY'RE LACED WITH FENTANYL.

Fentanyl is a drug 50 times more deadly than heroin, and it's finding its way into all kinds of drugs, even the ones you wouldn't expect. That's why fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45.



SCAN TO LEARN
HOW A TRACE COULD
BLOW UP YOUR LIFE.



WHATISFENTANYL.COM

Have you seen our campaign?



OHCR's What is Fentanyl Campaign launched November 28, 2022

Currently has:

- 6.6 million impressions
- 1.2 million completed video views
- Instagram drove the most traffic